

DEPARTMENT OF STATE INSTRUCTION

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ORIGIN NO.: A - 535, April 29, 1959

TO SUBJECT: UNESCO CL/1328 re Administrative Radio Conference.

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TO: American Embassy, PARIS.

Reference is made to the Director General's letter of November 20, 1958 (CL/1328) regarding proposals for possible submission by Member States to the Administrative Radio Conference of the ITU, scheduled to open in Geneva, August 17, 1959, and requesting information on these "or any analogous proposals" which this Government might decide to submit to the Conference. It is suggested that a reply along the following lines be forwarded to the Director General of UNESCO.

(Begin Reply)

Reference is made to your letter of November 20, 1958, (CL/1328), enclosing a number of proposals for possible submission by Member States to the 1959 Administrative Radio Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The United States Government has given careful consideration to these proposals, as set forth in the Annex to this letter, and comments concerning them as follows:

Recommendation No. 1 (page 3) - High Frequency Broadcasting

The United States has always cooperated actively with other ITU members in formulating sound international allocations or assignment plans for high frequency broadcasting, a fact which is already known to the ITU members generally. This Government could, therefore, support such a recommendation. However, the United States has consistently taken the position that it cannot be bound by an international high frequency broadcasting frequency assignment plan as long as intentional jamming of such broadcasting continues.

As an interim substitute, the United States Government is proposing that the high frequency broadcasting administrations coordinate their broadcasting program schedules and record these schedules with the International Frequency Registration Board (IFRB). It is believed by many specialists that this approach can improve the international high frequency broadcasting use of the radio spectrum, since it is based on self-proving operational requirements. However, the United

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(Security Classification)

States would be compelled firmly to oppose any proposal which might result in an expansion of the bands now allocated to the high frequency broadcasting service, since it is our opinion that the solution for high frequency broadcasting lies in the planned use of the spectrum space now available therefor rather than in the expansion of the high frequency broadcasting bands.

Recommendation No. 2 (page 4) - Frequency Modulation Broadcasting

This recommendation poses no particular problem for the United States where public VHF FM broadcasting has been in vogue for many years, and where the volume of such broadcasting is steadily increasing. This Government would therefore be willing to support such a recommendation at the Radio Conference.

Recommendation No. 3 (page 5) - Tax Exemption of Radio Receivers

The United States has for many years, and particularly since adoption of the Tariff Act of 1930, been an advocate of the reduction of tariffs on certain articles. On that basis this Government has made very substantial reductions in tariffs, notably for telecommunications equipment. It would therefore be prepared to support a proposal for a recommendation of this nature by the Radio Conference.

Recommendation No. 4 (page 6) - Low-Cost Receivers

This, in substance, is a recommendation that the ITU, UNESCO and others collaborate in research and developmental work on low-cost broadcasting receivers. Within the ITU, studies of this nature are made by the CCIR, where both government and non-government experts collaborate. There is no reason why the ITU or the CCIR could not invite UNESCO experts to participate in such a study. The U.S. Delegation to the Radio Conference could support such a recommendation.

General Comment

It should be borne in mind that possibly some of these recommendations should not be adopted by the Radio Conference, but should be handled by the Plenipotentiary Conference, which will be held concurrently.

Reply)

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